

## LIT Connections

January 6, 2021

2:00-3:00



*I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship. ~ Brene Brown*

**Present:** Cheryle Wilcox, Diane Bugbee, Lori Schreiner, Krista Barbagallo, Barb Joyal, Alice Maynard, Laurel Omland, Alicia Hanrahan, Cinn Smith, Karen Price, Jessica Coleman, Karen Bielawski-Branch, Cheryl Huntley, Matt Schibley, Sandi Yandow, Dana Robson, Kyle Cunningham, Belinda Bessette

**The second LIT Connections meeting was held today and focused on the topic of remote learning and concerns about children at home not receiving adequate support:**

- Children with behavioral issues being required to switch to remote because of their behaviors
- Capacity for some parents to support remote learning
- Some children and families more at risk
- Can schools require success in remote learning as a prerequisite for return to in person learning? Alicia – right now there are no AOE policies around prerequisites or conditions related to remote or in person; plan needs to be individualized. Alicia can reach out to the school to assist if needed: if talking to a family, must have family's permission; if requested by an organization, can reach out to school contact, usually special education administrator
- Concern expressed about students going to tutoring models while alternative plans are made
- The high stress levels of schools was noted, as well as not having the personnel available to implement a plan when it is developed
- Question was asked about whether some of the challenges are related to teaming issues, that if there was a solid process in place, problem solving could occur at a time when the conflict is not happening, which makes it more difficult
- The concern about truancy has presented new challenges during the pandemic, including moving students to remote learning and disenrolling students from school
- Truancy has grown during the pandemic, leaving a larger number of youth without support of any kind
- Disenfranchised families, more truancy, kids getting lost, families living in poverty without the needed resources or WIFI more at risk
- Concern expressed that there are more children with higher needs coming to Vermont in the southern part of the state children seeking help. Stress and acuity levels have risen. How do we best support them?
- Is there an opportunity through the AWARE grant through a family advocacy organization to target concerns about truancy? This seems to be an issue across regions.
- Should we be doing an information campaign about the CSP as a resource and tool to help children and families? Need to think about the capacity of parent representatives to meet increased need if this is considered.

**Next LIT Connections Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00.** Please reach out to Diane or Cheryle if you have questions about this or need the invite.